

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COMPUTING A PATH THROUGH SPECIFIED ELEMENTS IN A NETWORK

5

ABSTRACT

Methods and apparatus for automatically creating a circuit path that includes specified elements are disclosed. According to one aspect of the present invention, a method for computing a circuit path between a source node and a destination node of a network includes identifying at least a first element that is to be traversed by the circuit path such that the path passes from the source node, traverses the first element, then passes to the destination node. The method also includes routing a first segment of the circuit path automatically such that the source node and the first element are components of the first segment. In one embodiment, routing the first segment automatically includes routing the first segment automatically using a shortest path first algorithm.